Damage of foodgrains

†1966. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: WUl the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one third of the food-grains produced is rotted every year;

(b) if so, the concrete steps being taken up by Government to check such damamge of foodgrains; and

(c) if no steps have been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUME?. AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Exact quantification of losses of foodgrains at post-harvest stages at farm level is difficult. Various studies undertaken from time to time have estimated the post-harvest losses in the range of 9.33% to 4.12%.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps to check losses/ damage of foodgrains at various levels:

(I) The scheme of Save Grain Campaign (SGC) is in operation since 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this scheme is at educating the farmers through training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at farm level.

(ii) Foodgrain stocks procured for the central pool are stored by various agencies on scientific lines. Necessary prophylactic and curative measures are undertaken to reduce losses damage to stored foodgrains during storage.

(iii) The Government has also announced a Natioal Policy to promote bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains through private sector participation on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis. These steps will lead to modernize storage and reduce losses. The policy also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

envisages augmentation of conventional covered storage capacity through private sector participation.

(c) Does not arise.

Benefit of Annapoorna and Antyodaya schemes

1967. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to know whether benefits of Annapoorna and Antyodaya schemes are reaching to the right people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to raise monthly PDS allocations; and

(d) if so, to what extent, it would be raised and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A proposal relating to enhancement in allocation of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is under consideration. No final decision has been taken.

Reduction in prices of rationed foodgrains

1968. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to further reduce the prices of rationed foodgrains in view of buffer stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also been seriously considering delinking of Minimum Support Price from procurement; and